



PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Ref. ID-02-335

Strasbourg, 19 October 2018

Dear Mr. Gruden,

Following the latest alert with regard to Bulgaria submitted to the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists concerning the killing of the Bulgarian journalist Viktoria Marinova, please allow me to provide some information about the response and the actions taken by the Bulgarian authorities on this case.

The law enforcement authorities in Bulgaria are investigating fully and thoroughly the violent intentional crime, committed on 6 October 2018 in the Bulgarian city of Ruse. The investigation is on-going and all possibilities are still considered. At this stage there is no apparent link to suggest that the attack was connected to Ms Marinova's work, but it is rather a spontaneous sexual assault. The competent authorities have reacted promptly and professionally. Timely and adequate measures have been taken to find the perpetrator. Thanks to the excellent cooperation with the German federal police authorities on 9 October a man has been arrested in Germany in connection with the rape and murder and on 17 October he was extradited to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has unwavering commitment to the international standards on freedom of expression and facilitates in every possible way the working environment of the journalists and their security.

I would like to request your kind assistance in forwarding the above information to the relevant partner organisations and in keeping me informed about their position and reaction.

I stand ready to update you on the future developments.

Looking forward to our future cooperation, I remain at your disposal for any further clarifications.

Sincerely yours,

Katya TODOROVA

Ambassador

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